

Treasures of Pioneer History

DANIELS CANYON — WASATCH COUNTY

It was not long after the first settlers of 1859 started to develop the land near the creeks coming into Provo Valley from nearby canyons, that herdsmen sought for close-by range for their livestock. Others explored the canyons for timber stands with which to build homes in Provo Valley and Utah Valley; so, just as the Provo Canyon road was built, *Daniels Canyon* was opened for this same purpose.

A man whose surname was Daniels lived close to the creek and trapped along it to the head of the canyon and it was from him that the canyon derived its name. Through the canyon, which was very narrow, with high, rugged sides, ran a stream of crystal clear water in the spring and early summer, which dwindled away to a small brook in the fall. The canyon sides were covered with grass, shrubs, mahogany, scrub oak and maple, also service berries, elderberries and choke cherries, and on toward the 8,000 feet summit, quaking aspens, and different species of pine grew in abundance.

At intervals, starting from the mouth of the canyon, other canyons break away east and west from Daniels Canyon. These provided fine summer pasture for cattle and sheep herds. As one starts into the canyon, Noakes and Bromley Hollow comes in from the west onto the bench-ground west of the creek, which was tilled in pioneer days.

As you go into the canyon proper *Boomer Canyon* comes in from the west. Boomer Bench, a high flat country breaks off into the canyon here. The *Dry Fork* comes in from the east; *Parker Hollow* comes in from the west. *Clegg Canyon*, named for a Mr. Clegg who had a sawmill there, comes in from the east. Next, *Cummings Hollow*, from the west, named for a family who operated a sawmill in that vicinity. *Station Hollow* comes in from the west, so named because of a station located there where riders who carried mail to Vernal could rest and change horses.

Center Canyon comes in from the east and was the location of another sawmill. Between this canyon and *Dead Horse Flat*, *Cory Hanks*, who was so cruelly maimed in a giant-cap explosion, had a little store and there he lived with his mother. Next *Turner Canyon* comes in from the west where Turners owned a sawmill. Then *Rowe Hollow*, which supposedly got its name because Indians and white men had a skirmish there. *Three Forks*, one canyon from the east, two from the west comes in next. Here John Turner had another sawmill; then comes *McQuire Canyon* from the east where Patrick McQuire built a sawmill.